

# Black Gold

Van Dyke Parks

I had seen the captain drinking  
When he took that stinking cargo out  
Without a doubt he went too far  
I don't know what he was thinking

But he will take us out to sea

Eighty thousand metric tons of crude  
A crew of twenty-one  
Just ajar her screws in motion  
War pounding through the ocean  
All the stars rotating in their canopy

Black gold  
Rolling in the hold  
Black gold  
Time would now unfold  
To this black gold  
Back and forth  
In time for every swell  
The heavens fixed  
Upon our last farewell

Then she hit the water with a shudder  
It had got her  
As she went down  
What's up? says  
Heard to utter was the captain in his cups  
In my gut I know we all are doomed  
She broke up  
A hemorrhage of oil gushed  
A rage abroil from the soiled foil of her hull  
And she was pulled beneath  
The waves into her grave down in the gloom

Black gold  
My heart is still in pain  
Black gold  
Bounding on the main  
All this black gold  
My mandolin will tell her how I feel  
An agony of ebony and steel

What great balls of fire felt for miles around  
A river spelt an ess of oil slithering  
To leave your blackened  
It is not romantic in the morning  
And never mind come hithering  
Slick stick on the shore  
Seaside panic scores of frantic birds  
Yet antic as they slog through all  
It augurs as an ecologic nightmare to be sure

Black gold fades  
High command  
Black gold nature's  
Upper hand

All this black gold  
With ladies in mercedes on the strand  
The tar upon her car and in the sand

I'm the way the resurrection  
I'd say on him reflecting  
With what we're doing here  
For sure he'd want to  
Down the deepest trenches  
As their cadavers hold palaver  
And the gravity of their endeavors  
Christ  
I'm not sure he'd feel secure

Lead us clear out of this dark  
Man is stewing in his stench  
Cleverly converts them into shark

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Black gold  
Bounding on the main  
All this black gold  
My mandolin will tell her how I feel  
An agony of ebony and steel